

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-33 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, 11, -20 and 30-33 have been amended. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of claims 21-29.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful review of the claims, and has amended claims 14 and 15 to obviate the § 112 rejection.

§§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,863,201 to Lazzara et al. ("Lazzara").

Claims 5, 10, 12, 13, 17-19 and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lazzara. Applicant notes that the cover sheet for the Office Action stated that the claims 17-20 were allowable, but that page 3 of the Office Action indicated that claims 17-19 were rejected (claim 20 was not mentioned).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 17, and 30 in a manner that should obviate any rejections based on Lazzara, or any other prior art teaching of a dental implant. Unlike dental implants that are installed in the bone and require certain materials and surfaces to be osseointegrated, an implant analog simply engages various types of modeling material. Claims 17 and 30 have been amended to overcome the rejection by claiming the analog in combination

with the soft tissue modeling material. Lazzara (and any other implant-teaching reference) fails to teach such a combination. As such, Applicant believes that claims 17 and 30, as well as their dependent claims, are allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite further structure on the claimed analog that is not found in the prior art. Specifically, a lower region on the main body that is below the upper groove and opposite the upper surface increases in dimension toward a lowermost surface of the main body. The increasing dimension axially maintains the implant analog within the model. Claim 2 now states that the increasing dimension is defined by a lower groove, such as, for example, the groove 14 in FIG. 1A. Claim 1 also requires the analog to be unthreaded and to include a longitudinally extending flat region to resist rotation of the analog within the model. This combination of features now included in claim 1 adequately defines the analog over the prior art, including any prior art dental implants. As such, claims 1-16 should also be allowable.

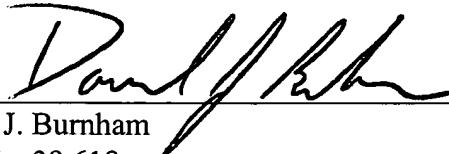
Conclusion

It is the Applicant's belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

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Amendment "A" dated June 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated March 24, 2004

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview,
the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,



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